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due to my unwillingness to adopt even unpublished views of others without at least giving formal credit. If my good intentions have in this instance had rather the effect of doing an injustice, that was not a matter of intent, but of error, and one I may claim an excuse for under the circumstances above explained.

Dr. Wilder refers to the absence of literary references in my short paper. This is in accordance with the fact that the paper was a provisional communication of results purely my own, and that quotations of the views of others were limited to such relating to collateral details or of works like those of Luys and Meynert, which are so much household words among cerebral anatomists that I thought a mention of their exact titles a useless affectation.

On reviewing the matter, I find that the relations are in every respect as Dr. Wilder gives them, viz.: 1st. That the lateral and third ventricles only communicate through the Foramen of Monro. 2d. That the medial aspect of the Thalamus only is in the third ventricle. 3d. That no part of the Thalamusis in the lateral ventricles. 4th. That the dorsal aspect of the Thalamus is neither in the third nor in the lateral, nor in any other ventricle.

My description of the third ventricle as a T shaped slit, requires this modification, that the vertical branch alone is ventricular, the horizontal being neither a part of the lateral nor of the third ventricle, but a *fissure* extending between the thalamus and the cerebral hemispheres.

While thus embryologically and morphologically the thalamus must be looked on as a distinct cerebral segment, yet in the higher mammalia (as I claimed some years ago) it has become practically a subsidiary ganglionic depot of the cerebral hemispheres, and thus assumes a position not without its analogies to that of the *Corpus striatum;* a view in full accord with that of Meynert.

In conclusion I would offer a formal apology for the erroneous interpretation I made of Dr. Wilder's views, and state that the communication I made was merely provisional, and intended to be followed up by more full essays on the different subjects mentioned therein, in which the necessary literary references will not be wanting.

I also trust that Dr. Wilder will, in his publication, enlighten us on the anterior termination of the "extraventricular" slit which extends over the thalamus and under the Fornix. I am unable to determine this question from my sections, which are chiefly made in the transverse direction, and in which the ependymal roof of the third ventricle was either absent or removed by the knife. This feature was in part responsible for my misapprehension of the shape of the third ventricle. Respectfully,

NEW YORK, February 3d, 1881. E. C. SPITZKA.

RECURRING PERIODS IN THE WEATHER.

To the Editor of "SCIENCE:"

Last year I published in the New York *Tribune* a table for the month of February showing the dates of rain and snow in that month for twenty years. I also pointed out that there seemed to be two well marked storm periods, about the 3rd and 20th of that month, when a storm might be expected. Since then I have made some corrections in the dates as then published and have extended my investigation to all the rest of the months. The result will be found in the table below; the table gives the dates of rain or snow as observed at Newburgh, N. Y. In all cases the blanks indicate that I had no observations for those dates. I would be very much obliged to any of the readers of "SCIENCE" who may have observations for these missing dates if they would publish them in "SCIENCE." For example, did it rain about 3rd of August 1862, May 1877, August 1873, August 1874, August 1876 and 1877, or about September 3, 1869? The missing dates from the 20th I would also be very much pleased to have supplied. An examination of the table will show that there seems to be two well marked storm periods in each month, and that a storm may be expected about the 3rd and 20th of every month. The crucial test for any theory concerning the weather is to see how accurately it predicts for any one place. It will readily be comprehended that the larger the area we predict for, greater is the probability of our predictions coming true, for if it does not storm at one place it may at another. Had I felt justified in using observations made in the vicinity of Newburgh, the table would have agreed much closer with theory, but I have only used the dates on which storms occurred at Newburgh. Besides, when the storm was very light near the 3rd or 20th, I have in some cases omitted it and recorded the date of the next storm. Thus, for example, it snowed at Newburgh December 21, 1880, but it did not last long, and I have recorded the heavier storm of December 25th; and in September, 1864, it rained before the 30th, but as it was very light, I omitted it and recorded the first rain of any amount after the 20th. However, my object will be accomplished if this article should direct the attention of observers to the importance of paying more attention to the recurring periods in the weather, on which Vennor has founded his predictions which have proved so true in many instances.

JAMES H. GARDINER.

NEWBURGH, N. Y.

YEAR.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1860	3 26	3 18	1 20	1 21	3 19	1 20	3 21	4 21	8 21	2 14	6 18	4 20
1861	3 20	3 20	3 19	3 24	1 25	2 19	6 20	8 22	3 18	5 19	2 21	1 23
1862	5 20	3 19	3 20	2 20	2 19	3 19	5 20	.. 22	1 17	4 19	6 19	3 22
1863	2 21	1 20	3 25	4 23	4 17	2 21	2 20	8 22	12 19	3 19	3 19	3 22
1864	1 19	1 24	2 20	2 25	3 21	1 20	2 25	3 21	4 30	2 28	4 21	3 21
1865	4 19	5 26	3 21	6 20	1 18	9 19	1 21	3 21	2 18	4 19	4 21	10 19
1866	12 20	2 19	4 20	7 22	2 20	3 22	4 20	2 21	4 20	14 22	11 22	7 20
1867	1 20	3 20	3 21	5 20	6 19	2 18	4 20	3 20	5 19	5 21	11 20	4 19
1868	1 21	9 19	2 21	2 20	2 21	2 21	3 24	3 20	3 20	1 21	2 18	4 20
1869	4 18	3 18	2 19	1 20	3 19	1 20	3 26	4 21	.. 25	3 28	5 20	5 20
1870	5 17	5 20	4 21	4 21	7 24	7 ..	3 28	4 25	3 17	11 20	3 19	4 21
1871	2 20	8 18	3 21	4 20	3 17	3 20	4 22	5 ..	3 19	2 18	1 22	5 19
1872	3 19	3 25	4 23	1 21	4 19	4 25	4 18	6 21	5 19	3 20	3 20	3 20
1873	2 20	3 21	2 20	3 21	3 21	6 23	1 19	.. ..	.. 19	4 20	7 18	2 18
1874	2 21	3 20	4 22	4 19	3 21	3 20	2 ..	.. ..	.. 19	2 21	9 20	1 20
1875	2 18	3 20	3 20	3 18	2 19	7 18	4 18	3 19	10 19	1 16	2 19	5 21
1876	2 19	3 21	1 20	3 20	4 20	3 20	2 20	.. 17	1 21	5 21	6 20	2 21
1877	2 22	2 16	2 21	2 20	.. 21	5 21	1 17	.. ..	6 28	4 21	2 24	5 21
1878	2 20	1 21	3 18	2 ..	1 20	4 22	4 22	1 20	3 21	6 19	6 20	2 21
1879	2 21	5 20	4 21	3 19	5 19	3 22	4 22	4 19	3 22	9 19	2 19	4 19
1880	4 20	3 21	2 20	3 20	2 22	2 20	3 20	3 21	7 20	4 22	5 20	5 25
1881	4 21											